

House Watch

A summary of today's House actions;
published daily when the House is in session.



10/24/07

FINAL PASSAGE

[HB 5282](#)

(V. Smith)

House Bill 5282 (as introduced) would amend the Insurance Code to create a new Chapter 37A to regulate individual (as opposed to group) health benefit plans. The bill would apply to plans (including Medicare supplement plans) that are subject to policy form or premium approval by the Insurance Commissioner. The bill applies to hospital, medical, surgical, and dental policies of commercial insurers; contracts of health maintenance organizations (HMOs); and certificates of a nonprofit health care corporation (meaning Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan). It would not apply to accident-only, credit, or disability income insurance; coverage that is a supplement to liability insurance; specific disease or illness coverage; worker's compensation; or automobile medical payment insurance.

- Farrah substitute H-1 was adopted
- HB 5282 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5282 was passed [RC 487: 89 yes, 17 no]
IE was ordered [No RC]

[HB 5283](#)

(Gaffney)

House Bill 5283 (as introduced) would amend the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act, which regulates Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, to specify that BCBSM is subject to the new Chapter 37A. The bill says that if a provision in the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Act dealing with individual health coverage (including premiums, rates, and filings) conflicts with the new Chapter 37A, then Chapter 37A would control.

- HB 5283 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5283 was passed [RC 488: 90 yes, 16 no]
IE was ordered [No RC]

HB 5284

(Farrah)

House Bill 5284 would amend the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act (MCL 550.1202 et al.), which regulates Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan. The bill would specify that a subsidiary of BCBSM could market or transact any type of insurance described in Chapter 6 of the Insurance Code if authorized by a certificate of authority granted to it by the commissioner. This would include life, automobile, property and casualty, and other kinds of insurance. The bill also amends the Section 202 of the act, which describes the purposes of the corporation, to add that the corporation could own subsidiary corporations that are organized under other acts and have other and different purposes, so long as those other and different purposes are not prohibited by law. The bill also strikes language that limits the subsidiary that was created when the BCBSM acquired the State Accident Fund to selling workers' compensation-related insurance.

- V. Smith-1 was adopted
- Hune-2 was adopted
- HB 5284 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5284 was passed [RC 489: 84 yes, 22 no]
IE was ordered [No RC]

HB 5285

(Hune)

House Bill 5285 (as introduced) would amend the Insurance Code (MCL 500.5104) to strike similar language, as done in HB 5284, regarding the workers' compensation subsidiary.

- HB 5285 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5285 was passed [RC 490: 84 yes, 22 no]
IE was ordered [No RC]

HB 5005

(Brown)

House Bill 5005 would amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 (MCL 600.208, et al.) to specify that the salary, expense allowances, and employment benefits and perquisites of judges do not include the assignment of a state-owned or leased vehicle to the judge. The bill would apply to a Michigan Supreme Court justice, a judge of the Court of Appeals, a Circuit Court judge, a Probate Court judge, and a District Court judge. The bill would also amend several provisions that currently say that judges "shall" be reimbursed for certain expenses to say instead that judges "may" be reimbursed subject to appropriations by the Legislature. (For example, expenses of justices attending judicial meetings called by the court administrator; actual and necessary expenses of appeals court judges; circuit court judges holding court in counties other than their home counties, etc.) Also, several current provisions in the act describe when increases in judges' salaries take effect.

- Committee substitute H-2 was adopted
- HB 5005 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5005 was passed [RC 492: 107 yes, 1 no]
IE was ordered [No RC]

HB 5006

(Corriveau)

House Bill 5006 would amend the Management and Budget Act (MCL 18.1115 et al.) to allow the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) to issue directives on the purchase, lease, maintenance, operation, assignment, and use of state-owned vehicles for official business for state agencies, including for the legislative and judicial branches. (However, a separate section, described later, applies to the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources.) The DMB can also issue directives establishing conditions of privately-owned vehicles on official business. However, the bill specifies that the Legislature could establish conditions for the use of privately-owned motor vehicles for official legislative business, and the Judiciary could establish conditions for the use of privately-owned vehicles for official business of the judicial branch. Currently, the DMB can issue directives on the assignment of motor vehicles to state agencies and institutions of higher education. Under the bill, a motor vehicle could not be assigned on the basis of the public office held, job classification, job title, as a management perquisite, or as an employment benefit. The bill also says the director of a principal department or state agency could be assigned a motor vehicle for official business use only. A state-owned or leased vehicle could not be used for personal use by an employee of the legislative or judicial branch of government. An employee or officer of the legislative or judicial branch would be subject to the same vehicle assignment provisions as an employee, or officer of a state agency or an institution of higher education.

- Committee substitute H-2 was adopted
- Meekhof-2 was withdrawn
- HB 5006 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5006 was passed [RC 491: 107 yes, 1 no]
IE was ordered [No RC]

THIRD READING

SB 403

(Kuipers)

The bill would permit the parent or legal guardian of a transfer student who had completed at least two years of high school, either out-of-state or at a non-public school, to request modifications of the Michigan Merit Standard.

- Substitute H-3 was not adopted
- SB 403 advanced to 3rd Reading

HB 5102

(Farrah)

The bill would amend the McCauley-Traxler-Law-Bowman-McNeely Lottery Act to prohibit a licensed lottery sales agent from offering to give, or from giving, any money or other thing of value to the holder of a lottery ticket or a share in a lottery ticket for winning the lottery. The sales agent would still be allowed to pay the amount of the prize, if such payment by a sales agent is authorized by the Lottery commissioner.

- **HB 5102 advanced to 3rd Reading**

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

HR 109

(Vagnozzi)

A resolution to urge the United States Secretary of State to increase efforts to urge the People's Republic of China to halt its violation of the human rights of its citizens, specifically the persecution of and forced harvesting of organs from practitioners of Falun Gong.

- **HR 109 was adopted**

##

HR 129 was re-referred to the Committee on Tourism, Outdoor Recreation, and Natural Resources